



# ***Joint Information Center***

## **Nebraska Emergency Management Agency**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Burning Downed Power Poles a Health Hazard**

*Joint Information Center, Grand Island, NE:*

The Nebraska Health and Human Services System, in cooperation with the Nebraska Fire Marshal's office, warns Nebraskans not to cut up or burn the broken power poles that they find around their house or community.

These poles are treated with chemicals to make them resistant to rotting. Airborne treated or untreated wood dust may cause nose, throat or lung irritation and other respiratory problems. Burning treated wood can release toxic metals into the ash and possibly the smoke. Various species of untreated wood dust can trigger an allergic respiratory response in sensitized persons.

Also, don't pick up or move and downed utility poles. They may have lines attached, and there is always a risk of electrocution. This is a job that must be left to the public power district.